

LOFTUS  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



---

R E P O R T  
for the Year 1964

of the Medical Officer of Health

T. M. B. ROHAN,  
M.B., B.C.H., B.A.O., D.P.H.

---

Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2017 with funding from  
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29739317>

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS  
OF THE  
LOFTUS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

---

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year 1964, the contents of which are in accordance with the regulations of the Ministry of Health.

The table of classification of the causes of death shows diseases of the heart and circulation to take its usual first place, with cancer a close second.

In the Infectious diseases section, Measles accounted for the majority of the notifications and though there was an epidemic of Whooping Cough in the Urban District it is heartening to note that quite a lot of the children who contracted the disease had been immunised, and therefore only developed a mild form of whoop.

The "Meals on Wheels" continued to do its good work in serving the old people of the District under the able guidance of the W.V.S.

I would like to record my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their encouragement throughout the year.

To the Heads of Departments I am again obliged for their co-operation at all times. To Mr. W. C. Ranson, whose report follows mine, I owe an especial debt for his unstinted help in all matters concerning the health of the District.

Finally, I wish to thank the two clerical officers, Mr. R. K. Nuttall and Miss D. E. Fox, who working in the Area Health Office, have contributed to the smooth conduct of affairs.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

T. M. B. ROHAN,

Medical Officer of Health.

September, 1965.

**TABLE 1**  
**Public Health Officers**

Whole Time Officers	Guisborough Urban District	Skelton & Brotton Urban District	Loftus Urban District
Medical Officer of Health who is also Asst. County Medical Officer No. 4 Area N.R.C.C. and School Medical Officer, N.R.C.C.	Dr. T. M.	B. Rohan	
Public Health Inspectors	*Mr. A. T. Pallister	Mr. J. H. Rhodes	*Mr. W. C. Ranson
Additional Public Health Inspectors	Mr. E. Ward	Mr. R. M. Chalmers	Mr. W. Murray

\*Also Surveyor of the district concerned

#### **County Public Health Staff attached to the Loftus Area.**

Miss R. F. Cracknell	Health Visitor/School Nurse
Miss H. J. Lindsley	District Nurse/Midwife
Miss E. Pressick	District Nurse/Midwife
Mrs. A. Thompson	District Nurse/Midwife
Miss D. G. Pybus	District Nurse
Mr. R. K. Nuttall	Senior Clerk
Miss D. E. Fox	Clerk Typist.

### **SECTION 1.**

#### **Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area**

##### **Population**

The Registrar-General's estimate of the population of the district in the mid-year 1964 is 8,100 as compared with one of 8,000 for the mid-year 1963.

##### **General Statistics**

I am indebted to the Financial Officer of the Council for the following figures:—

1. Area of the District in acres	....	....	9,974
2. No. of inhabited houses according to the rate books	....	....	2,736
3. Rateable Value	....	....	£299,977
4. Sum represented by a penny rate	....	....	£1,115

The District consists of the town of Loftus, the industrial communities of Skinnin-grove and part of Carlin How and the hamlets of Liverton, Scaling, Easington, Street Houses and Cowbar. The principal industries today are the iron and steel works and agriculture.

TABLE 2 — Vital Statistics

## CAUSES OF DEATH

		MALE	FEMALE
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	....	—	—
Tuberculosis, other	....	—	—
Syphilitic disease	....	—	—
Diphtheria	....	—	—
Whooping Cough	....	—	—
Meningo-coccal infection	....	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	....	—	—
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	....	—	—
Malignant Neoplasm of Stomach	....	2	1
Malignant Neoplasm of Lung, Bronchus	—	—	—
Malignant Neoplasm of Breast	....	—	—
Malignant Neoplasm of Uterus	....	—	—
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	4	6	
Leukaemia	....	—	—
Diabetes	....	1	—
Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System	9	7	
Coronary Disease, Angina	....	19	9
Hypertension with Heart Disease	....	—	1
Other Heart Diseases	....	3	6
Other Circulatory Diseases	....	1	2
Influenza	....	—	—
Pneumonia	....	3	1
Bronchitis	....	4	—
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	....	—	—
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	....	1	—
Gastro-enteritis and diarrhoea	....	—	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	....	—	—
Hyperplasia of Prostate	....	—	—
Pregnancy, child-birth, abortion	....	—	—
Congenital malformations	....	1	—
Other defined or ill-defined diseases	....	7	3
Motor vehicle accidents	....	2	1
All other accidents	....	—	1
Suicide	....	—	—
Homicide and operations of war	....	—	—
ALL CAUSES	....	57	39

## Deaths

The deaths are classified under thirty-six headings based on the Abbreviated List of International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death, 1948. 96 deaths of residents gave a corrected death-rate of 14.1 per 1,000 of population compared to 11.3 for England and Wales.

**TABLE 3**  
**Vital Statistics**

		MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Live Births	....	77	46	123
Legitimate	....	75	45	120
Illegitimate	....	2	1	3
Still Births	....	2	—	2
Legitimate	....	2	—	2
Illegitimate	....	—	—	—

### Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age

		MALE	FEMALE
Total	....	....	5
Legitimate	....	....	4
Illegitimate	....	....	1

## Births

The number of births registered in the district during the year was 123, giving a corrected birth rate of 16.2 per thousand of the population compared to 18.4 for England and Wales.

Five infants under the age of one year died, giving an infantile mortality rate of 40.6 per thousand live births compared with one of 20.0 for England and Wales.

TABLE 4

**NOTIFIABLE DISEASES 1964**  
**(other than Tuberculosis)**

	All Ages	Under 1 year	1 year	2	3	4	5	10—	15—	25—	35—	45—	65—	Age Un-known
Scarlet Fever	....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	....	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3
Erysipelas	....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	....	....	98	1	8	14	9	17	49	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	....	72	1	6	10	5	9	34	6	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid	....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Typhoid	....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningo-coccal Infection	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	....	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—

**TABLE 5****Tuberculosis**

One new case of respiratory tuberculosis and one of non-respiratory tuberculosis were notified during the year. There were no deaths from this disease.

**TABLE 6****Immunisation and Vaccination**

<b>Immunisation against Diphtheria</b>	<b>UNDER 1</b>	<b>1 TO 4</b>	<b>5 TO 14</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Completed	57	29	21	107
<b>Immunisation against Whooping Cough</b>		<b>0 TO 4</b>	<b>5 TO 14</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Completed		96	11	107
<b>Vaccination (Smallpox)</b>	<b>PRIMARY</b>		<b>RE-VACCINATION</b>	
	31		4	
<b>Poliomyelitis Vaccination</b>	<b>PRIMARY</b>		<b>REINFORCING</b>	
	173		92	

**The General Provision of Health Services in the District****1. Laboratory Facilities**

This work is now done at the Public Health Laboratory, Middlesbrough, only the biological test for tuberculous milk being carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, Northallerton.

**2. National Health Service Act, 1946**

With certain exceptions the Guisborough Area Health Sub-Committee of the Health Committee of the County Council exercises the functions of the Local Health Authority in supervising the day to day administration of the services provided under this Act. The Committee met every two months. It is composed of members of the County Council, of the three District Councils of Guisborough, Skelton and Brotton, and Loftus, and of certain co-opted members. Among the services administered are the following:—

Domestic Help Service	Home Nursing
Prevention of illness: Care and After Care	Health Visiting
Ambulance Service	Midwifery
Vaccination and Immunization	Care of Mothers and Young Children.

**3. Prevention of Illness—Care and After-Care**

The work previously carried out under this heading by the Voluntary Care Committee is now being undertaken by the Guisborough Area Health Sub-Committee. Enquiries and requests for assistance may be made to the Medical Officer of Health, District Health Office, Park Lane, Guisborough. (Telephone: Guisborough 2521).

**4. National Assistance Acts, 1948 and 1951 — Section 47.**

There was no procedure taken under these acts during 1964.

## SECTION II

### ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1964

by W. C. Ranson, M.R.S.H.

Surveyor and Public Health Inspector

*To the Chairman and Members of the  
Loftus Urban District Council*

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report on the work carried out in the year ending 31st December, 1964.

#### Water Supplies

During the year fifty-four samples of water were taken from various supply points in the district for bacteriological examination. Of these, only four showed a quality of water which was below standard. The extensions of the services of the Statutory Water Undertakers to serve Liverton Mines and Liverton Village were completed during the year, thus eliminating the complaints of previous years of a deficiency in the quantity of water in these areas, and also improving the bacteriological quality of the supplies to these areas.

The following table shews the results of the examination of supplies:—

TABLE 1.

AREA OF SUPPLY		CLASSIFICATION											
Zetland Estates—South Loftus	....	1	1	1	1	1	1	4	1	1	1	4	2
Wykeham Estates—Liverton Mines	....	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	4
Tees Valley Water Board—Skinningrove	....	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Tees Valley Water Board—Loftus	....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Tees Valley Water Board—Easington	....	1	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	1	1
Tees Valley Water Board—Liverton Mines	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tees Valley Water Board—Liverton Village	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	1	1	1	1
Private Supplies	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—

#### Food Premises

The following table shows the number of food premises of various types within the Urban District. Where more than one type of food is dealt with, cognisance has been taken of the main food sold. There is no ice cream manufactured in the district, but thirty-three premises are registered for the sale of ice cream. In addition seven premises are registered for the manufacture of sausage, brawn, pies, etc., but pies are manufactured in only three premises.

7 are registered for the manufacture of sausage, brawn, pies, etc., the main work being the manufacture of sausages. In only two cases are pies manufactured in the district.

Butchers	....	....	....	5
Fishmongers	....	....	....	1
Grocers	....	....	....	21
Greengrocers	....	....	....	5
Bakers and Confectioners	....	....	....	2
Sweets and General Goods	....	....	....	27
Canteens, etc.	....	....	....	6
Licensed premises	....	....	....	18
Fish frying premises	....	....	....	7
Bakehouses	....	....	....	4

384 visits of inspection of registered food premises were made during the year.

### **Food Hygiene Regulations, 1956**

During the year 268 visits were made to food premises under the Food Hygiene Regulations and the general standard of hygiene was very good. In only 9 cases were infringements of the regulations found, of these 8 were remedied by informal action and in the case of the ninth infringement the owners agreed to close the premises until structural improvements had been carried out.

### **Licensed Premises**

There are 18 licensed premises in the area. Thirty-nine inspections have been made to these.

### **Fish Frying.**

There are seven fish frying premises in the district. These were inspected on 21 occasions.

### **Bakehouses**

There are four bakehouses in use in the district. Sixteen inspections of these were carried out.

### **Food Poisoning**

No outbreak of food poisoning was notified to me during the year.

### **Meat Inspection**

With the co-operation of the butchers concerned, it has been possible to maintain the 100% inspection of all meat slaughtered within the district at the two private slaughterhouses, and for this purpose 360 visits have been made. This has entailed a certain amount of overtime being worked, especially at week-ends, but the rota system operated by your inspectors has again proved satisfactory. During the year 1094 lbs. of meat and offal were condemned as being diseased or otherwise unfit for human consumption, and the whole of this amount was surrendered voluntarily.

TABLE 2—Carcasses and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	1035	28	5	2278	1349	—
Number inspected	1035	28	5	2278	1349	—
<b>All diseases except Tuberculosis &amp; Cysticerci</b>	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	54	11	—	3	20	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	5.21%	39.28%	—	0.13%	1.48%	—
<b>Tuberculosis only:</b>	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	17	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	1.26%	—
<b>Cysticercosis</b>	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	1	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of number inspected affected with Cysticercus Bovis	0.09%	—	—	—	—	—

In addition to fresh foods inspected during the year, inspections have been made of tinned foods. The owners and managers of the food shops in the district have co-operated with your Inspectors, and these inspections have resulted in the following tinned foods being condemned as unfit for human consumption and voluntarily surrendered.

Meat	277 lbs. 1 oz.	Fruit	248 lbs. 13 ozs.
Vegetables	60 lbs. 6 ozs.	Milk	16 lbs. 6 ozs.
Fish	6 lbs. 12 ozs.	Soups	1 lb. 5 ozs.

## HOUSING

### Housing Statistics

#### New houses erected in 1963

(a) By private owners .... ....	....	7
(b) By the Council .... ....	....	Nil
(c) By conversion by Private Owners ....	....	1

#### 1. Inspection of dwellinghouses during the year

1. (a) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ....	....	339
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ....	....	520
2. (a) Number of dwellinghouses (included under sub-head (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932 ....	....	0
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ....	....	0
3. Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation		0
4. Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ....	....	339

#### 2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices

(1) Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit or repaired in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers .... .... ....	....	339
---	------	-----

#### 3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year

##### A. Proceedings under Sections 9 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1957

(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs .... .... ....	....	0
--	------	---

(2) Number of dwellinghouses rendered fit after service of formal notices	
--	--

(a) By Owners .... .... ....	....	0
------------------------------	------	---

(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners .... ....	....	0
---	------	---

##### Proceedings under Public Health Acts

(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ....	....	0
---	------	---

(2) Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices	
--	--

(a) By Owners .... .... ....	....	0
------------------------------	------	---

(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners .... ....	....	0
---	------	---

### Housing Statistics—continued

C.	Proceedings under Section 17 of the Housing Act, 1957		
(1)	Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	.....	0
(2)	Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	.....	13
D.	Proceedings under Section 16, 17, 18, 26 and 35, Housing Act, 1957		
(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made	.....	0
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	.....	0
4.	<i>Housing Act, 1936, Part 4, Overcrowding</i>		
	No accurate figures are available.		
5.	<i>Housing Act, 1949, and Housing Repairs and Rents Acts, 1954 and 1957</i>		
(1)	(a) Number of Improvement Grants made—Standard	....	33
	Discretionary	....	9
	(b) Number of Improvement Grants refused	....	0
(2)	(a) Number of Certificates of Disrepair granted	....	0
	(b) Number of Certificates of Disrepair revoked	....	0

## Sanitary Circumstances of the District

The following table shews the inspections for Nuisances which have been carried out by my department during the year. These inspections do not include inspections made under the Housing Acts, but include all inspections, other than food inspections, made during the year.

TABLE 3

## Nuisances

Total number of inspections made for nuisances only		155
Nuisances found	....	130
Nuisances in hand end of previous year	....	2
Total needing abatement	....	132
Abated during the year	....	131
Outstanding at end of year	....	1
Notices served—Informal	130	Complied with
Notices served—Statutory	0	Complied with
Number of summonses or legal proceedings — Nil.		

## **Regulated Buildings, Trades, Etc.**

There are no common lodging houses, houses let in lodgings or knackers' yards.

## **Byelaws in force in the District**

Building Byelaws, 21st August, 1953.

## **Sanitary Accommodation.**

Conversion of pail closets and privies to the water carriage system has continued at a satisfactory rate. During the year there were 12 conversions bringing the total number of houses with the water carriage system to 2687 and reducing the number of houses without to 69.

## **Refuse Collection and Disposal**

The weekly collection of refuse has been maintained during the year from the whole of the district, except for isolated dwellings. This has necessitated the use of additional transport and men to augment the regular collection team for time lost during public holidays, and during the period when the refuse freighter was undergoing repair.

Controlled tipping has continued during the year at the Deepdale Shale site, using the tractor digger full time to cover the refuse with shale. Difficulty is still being experienced during high winds due to the excessive amounts of paper, cartons, and cardboard included in the household refuse. This difficulty would be minimized, and the refuse collection service greatly assisted, if householders would burn as much of this type of refuse as possible.

## **Shops Acts, 1950, Section 37 and 38**

Fifty-three visits were paid under the above-mentioned sections. Unsatisfactory conditions were found in seven instances and were remedied.

## **Movable Dwellings**

There are three licensed caravan sites in the area. Sixteen visits were made during the year, and no unsatisfactory conditions were found.

## **Sewer and Sewage Disposal**

The disposal of sewage is carried out by discharge into the sea. During the year under review there have been no complaints received in connection with the sewer outfall. Strengthening of the base to the marker beacon to the sewer outfall was carried out during the year.

In an effort to prevent further blockages caused by vandalism on the main sewer in Whitecliffe Beck, locking straps were fitted to the lids of the manholes. Blockages on the smaller sewers continue to occur, and in most cases these have been found to be caused by carelessness or ignorance on the part of the occupiers of properties served by these sewers.

It was not possible to commence work on the extension of the sewerage system to serve Liverton Village as all the necessary consents had not been received.

All new drainage work continues to be tested, where practicable, by the water test, but during the period of the water shortage, at the request of the Statutory Water Undertakers, the smoke test was used. Advice on suitable drainage layouts is freely given when required, and co-operation between local contractors and my department in connection with new drainage work has been very good, thus enabling the work to proceed smoothly and efficiently.

### Snow Clearance

A very considerable amount of time and money was spent on snow clearance during the period of exceptionally severe weather over the first 10 weeks of the year. Sunken roads in this area considerably aggravate the position at times like these.

### Clean Air Act.

The following table shews the deposit in tons per square mile in respect of the deposit gauge at Skinningrove and the concentration of smoke in microgrammes per cubic metre in respect of the smoke filter at Loftus. Readings at the deposit gauge, classed as an industrial site, have been below average for the area, but the percentage of  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$  is high in proportion. The readings from the smoke filter shew reasonably satisfactory results. It should be noted, however, that these gauges were placed in positions where the readings could be taken as the highest for the district, the deposit gauge in the vicinity of the Skinningrove Gas Works and the Skinningrove Iron Co., the smoke filter in the centre of the township where smoke from domestic fires is heaviest.

Thirty-five observations were made of smoke emissions from plant in the area and no emissions of black or excessive smoke were noted.

**TABLE 4**  
**Atmospheric Pollution Tests**

DEPOSIT GAUGE, SKINNINGROVE						SMOKE FILTER, LOFTUS			
Month	pH Value	Rainfall	Undissolved Matter	Dissolved Matter	$\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$	Month	Highest Value	Lowest Value	Average
Jan.	7.0	2.33	16.70	23.12	4.51	Jan.	—	—	—
Feb.	5.5	1.42	12.12	5.54	3.44	Feb.	—	—	—
March	7.0	1.56	8.52	7.01	2.00	March	—	—	—
April	6.6	1.04	5.08	8.58	0.76	April	—	—	—
May	6.8	1.30	46.40	11.59	7.01	May	93	43	68
June	6.0	3.85	18.34	39.40	3.93	June	127	10	45
July	6.8	0.92	9.08	3.81	1.67	July	79	9	39
Aug.	5.2	4.98	10.75	50.80	2.30	Aug.	95	6	44
Sept.	6.5	1.17	7.82	12.69	2.19	Sept.	121	24	61
Oct.	6.6	1.37	7.46	5.85	2.61	Oct.	125	43	78
Nov.	6.6	3.17	10.82	13.33	3.54	Nov.	159	41	100
Dec.	7.0	1.62	11.86	9.79	4.38	Dec.	236	28	122

**Factories Act, 1937—1959.**

**TABLE 5.**

**1. Inspections** for the purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises	No. on Register	No. of Inspections	No. of written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(I) Factories in which Section 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities .... .... ....	20	79	—	—
(II) Factories not included in (I) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority .... .... ....	2	7	—	—
(III) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ....	—	—	—	—
<b>TOTAL</b> .... .... ....	<b>22</b>	<b>86</b>	—	—

**2. Cases in which defects were found.**

	Number of cases in which defects were found			
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector
	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

**Rodent Control.**

The rodent operative appointed jointly by Loftus U.D.C. and Skelton & Brotton U.D.C. has continued his duties in the two areas, this arrangement working very satisfactorily. Sewers in the area were treated twice during the year, light infestations by rats being found in isolated areas. Both refuse tips continue to be kept free of vermin. Inspections and treatments of properties in the area were carried out as necessary.

In conclusion, I would express my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Council, to Dr. T. M. B. Rohan, The Medical Officer of Health, and Mr. W. Murray, the Deputy Surveyor and Additional Public Health Inspector, for their interest and help in the running of the Department, and also the staff and workmen, whose loyal services aids so much efficient operation. I would also like to thank Mr. T. C. Ellison, the Clerk of the Council, for his close co-operation at all times.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. C. RANSON,

Surveyor & Public Health Inspector.





